

Application No.: 09/901,317
Art Unit: 2143

Attorney Docket No.: 2000-0280-CON

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ method of ~~claim 2~~ serving content in a packet-switched network comprising:

choosing from a plurality of content distribution networks which content distribution network will respond to a content request from a client;

redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network so that the content request will be served by the chosen content distribution network, wherein

the content distribution network is chosen based, at least partly, on a determination of which of the plurality of content distribution networks is closer to the client.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 3 wherein the content distribution network is chosen based, at least partly, on a measurement of load on the content distribution networks.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the content distribution network is chosen only if the measured load on the content distribution network does not exceed a predetermined capacity reserved on the content distribution network.

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6. (Currently Amended) ~~{CONVOLUTED URLS}~~ The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3 wherein the content to be served by the chosen content distribution network comprises content embedded in a document to be served to the client and wherein ~~the step of~~ redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network further comprises ~~the step of~~ rewriting references to the embedded content before serving the document to the client.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the reference to the embedded content is rewritten to point to a server in the chosen content distribution network.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the reference to the embedded content is rewritten to point to a domain name served by the content distribution network.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the reference to the embedded content is rewritten so that ~~the an~~ original reference may be readily parsed from a corresponding one of the rewritten ~~reference~~ references.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the chosen content distribution network ~~can utilize~~ utilizes the corresponding one of the rewritten references ~~reference~~ to obtain the embedded content if the chosen content distribution network does not have an up-to-date copy of the embedded content in a cache.

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11. (Currently Amended) ~~[DNS OUTSOURCING]~~ The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5 wherein ~~the step of~~ redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network further comprises ~~the step of having~~ resolving the domain name system queries ~~resolve~~ to content served by the chosen content distribution network.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~[A-RECORD REDIRECTION]~~ The method of claim 11 wherein further comprising answering the domain name system queries ~~are answered~~ with a network address of content served by the chosen content distribution network.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[NS-RECORD REDIRECTION]~~ The method of claim 11 wherein further comprising answering the domain name system queries ~~are answered~~ with a network address of a domain name system server responsible for the chosen content distribution network.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[CNAME REDIRECTION]~~ The method of claim 11 wherein further comprising answering domain name system queries ~~are answered~~ with a domain name of content served by the chosen content distribution network.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[TRIANGULATION]~~ The method of claim 11 wherein further comprising forwarding the domain name system queries ~~are forwarded~~ to a domain name server responsible for the chosen content distribution network and which directly answers the domain name system ~~query~~ queries.

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16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 5, wherein the content distribution network serves the content request from a local cache and wherein the content distribution network has access to a second copy of the content if there is a cache miss.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~{TABLE-DRIVEN-DISAMBIGUATION}~~ The method of claim 16, wherein the content distribution network ~~has~~ includes a table of associations between references to content served by the content distribution network and references to a second copy of the content served from elsewhere in the network.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~{SEMANTIC-MAPPING-DISAMBIGUATION}~~ The method of claim 16 wherein the content distribution network ~~can transform~~ transforms references to content served by the content distribution network into second references to a second copy of the content served from elsewhere in the network.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The brokering domain name server of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 22 wherein the predetermined policy reflects a chosen content distribution network and redirection mechanism for each of a plurality of regions of client network addresses.

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21. (Currently Amended) The brokering domain server of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 22 wherein the policy module further comprises an interface to information received from the plurality of content distribution networks and wherein the policy module modifies the predetermined policy in response to the information.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ brokering domain server of ~~claim 21~~ comprising:
a domain name system engine which is capable of answering domain name system queries from a client; and
a policy module which directs the domain name system engine to answer the domain name system queries in accordance with a predetermined policy which resolves a domain name to a server in a content distribution network chosen from a plurality of content distribution networks, wherein:
the policy module further comprises an interface to information received from the plurality of content distribution networks and wherein the policy module modifies the predetermined policy in response to the information, and
the information further comprises load information and wherein the predetermined policy reflects capacity reserved on each of the plurality of content distribution networks.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of redirecting content requests between content distribution networks, comprising ~~the steps of:~~
receiving a request for a document which contains one or more embedded content references;

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retrieving the document;

choosing one out of a plurality of content distribution networks to serve the embedded content;

rewriting the document so that the embedded content references point to content stored at the chosen content distribution network; and

transmitting the rewritten document.

25. (New) A system comprising:

means for choosing a content distribution network from a plurality of content distribution networks for responding to a content request from a client; and

means for redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network so that the content request will be served by the chosen content distribution network, wherein

the means for choosing a content distribution network from a plurality of content distribution networks for responding to a content request from a client is configured to choose a content distribution network only if a measured load of the content distribution network does not exceed a predetermined capacity reserved on the content distribution network.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein:

the content to be served by the chosen distribution network comprises content embedded in a document to be served to the client, and

the means for redirecting the client to the chosen content distribution network so that the content request will be served by the chosen content distribution network further comprises:

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means for rewriting references to the embedded content before serving
the document to the client.

27. (New) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

means for serving content from a local cache; and

means for serving content from a second copy of the content when the means
for serving content from a local cache experiences a cache miss.

28. (New) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

means for transforming references to content served by the content distribution
network into second references to the second copy of the content served from
elsewhere in the network.